

Appl. No. 09/719,709
Amdt. Dated May 21, 2004
Reply to Office action of March 23, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P09410-US1
EUS/JIP/04-3119

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendments

The Applicants have not amended any claims nor have any claims been canceled. Claims 3 and 12 were previously canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-2 and 4-11 and 13-18 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strom *et al.* ("Medical Image Compression with Lossless Regions of Interest", hereinafter Strom) in view of Hirabayashi (US 6,256,413 hereinafter Hirabayashi). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

The Strom reference appears to compare algorithms for lossless region of Interest (ROI) compression. In the reference, previous methods for region-based coding of medical images are discussed. Among the methods discussed, Strom discusses coding image regions where each region may have a predetermined accuracy level and of region based coding for providing different levels of quality (accuracy) in different spatial regions of an image. The Strom reference also describes the assumptions regarding the decoder and lossless regions (Page 18, para. 2).

In the Official Action, a correspondence is drawn between the discussion in Strom and the claimed feature in claim 1 of the Applicants invention regarding "concatenating the bit stream of each segment together with necessary stream and header information and sending the concatenated bit stream to the receiver". The Applicant has reviewed the cited portion of Strom and finds no reference to concatenating the bit stream of each segment. Instead, the cited portions of Strom discuss coding. Strom does not discuss, teach or suggest concatenating the bit stream of each segment and sending the concatenated bit stream to the receiver, in the cited passages. Nor does Strom discuss or disclose concatenating the bit stream in the entire prior art reference.

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Hirabayashi is cited for disclosing a mask to describe the transform coefficients for reconstructing each region of interest. However, Hirabayashi does not disclose, teach or suggest concatenating a bit stream of each segment and sending the concatenated bit stream to the receiver. Neither Strom nor Hirabayashi, either individually or in combination, disclose the limitation in independent claim 1 regarding sending a concatenated bit stream to the receiver. Claim 10 contains limitations analogous to the limitations of claim 1 and the respective dependent claims also contain the same allowable limitations.

Claims 5 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strom in view of Hirabayashi and further in view of Gonzalez *et al.* (*Digital Image Processing*, hereinafter Gonzalez). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

Gonzalez is cited for teaching the use of topology descriptions as regional descriptors. However, Gonzalez does not supply the missing limitation of concatenating a bit stream of each segment and sending the concatenated bit stream to the receiver. Claims 5 and 14 depend from claims 1 and 10 respectively and contain the same bit stream limitation as claims 1 and 10.

Claims 7-9 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strom in view of Hirabayashi and further in view of Impagliazzo *et al.* (US 5,757,974, hereinafter Impagliazzo). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

Impagliazzo is cited for teaching that it is known to generate a segment description. Impagliazzo does not teach the missing limitation of concatenating a bit stream of each segment and sending the concatenated bit stream to the receiver. Claims 7-9 and 16-18 depend from claims 1 and 10 respectively and contain the same bit stream limitation as claims 1 and 10.

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Claims 4 and 13 are rejected under 35. U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strom in view of Hirabayashi and further in view of Katata *et al.* (US 5,978,515, hereinafter Katata). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

Katata is cited here for the limitation of decoding only predetermined parts of the compressed bit stream. However, Katata does not supply the missing limitation of concatenating a bit stream of each segment and sending the concatenated bit stream to the receiver. Claims 4 and 13 depend from claims 1 and 10 respectively and contain the same bit stream limitation as claims 1 and 10.

The limitation of concatenating a bit stream of each segment and sending the concatenated bit stream to the receiver is not taught or suggested in Strom, Hirabayashi, Gonzalez, Impagliazzo and Katata individually or in any combination of the cited prior art references.

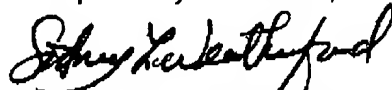
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-2 and 4-11 and 13-18.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



By Sidney L. Weatherford
Registration No. 45,602
Ericsson Patent Counsel

Ericsson Inc.
6300 Legacy Drive
M/S EVR 1-C-11
Plano, TX 75024
Phone: 972-583-8656
Fax: 972-583-7864
sidney.weatherford@ericsson.com